



Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona

## NEWS RELEASE

1110 West Washington, Suite 290 • Phoenix, Arizona 85007 • [www.azwifa.gov](http://www.azwifa.gov)

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**Contact:** Tiffany N. Troidl, Communications Director: (602) 364-1314

### **WIFA Chairman Owens Announces \$2.8 Million Loan to Valencia Water Company For Arsenic Project**

PHOENIX – Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona (WIFA) Chairman Steve Owens today announced a loan award of \$2,831,026 to Valencia Water Company in Buckeye for the company's arsenic project to meet the new federal arsenic standard.

The company will install FlexSorb Modular Systems, which utilizes a water treatment system called ArsenX, to reduce the arsenic level in drinking water supplied by the company. Five additional future wells will be blended using the treatment system at the Sonoran West well site. Three additional future wells will be blended using the treatment system at the Schult well site.

“Water systems in Arizona face challenges meeting the new federal arsenic standard because arsenic occurs naturally in soil and groundwater in our state,” said Chairman Owens, who is also Director of the Department of Environmental Quality. “We have been working hard to help companies like Valencia meet the standard.”

Valencia will treat water so that the arsenic level is brought below 10 parts per billion (ppb). Under the new rule effective Jan. 23, 2006, all water systems must reduce their arsenic level to 10 ppb or below.

Since the promulgation of the federal arsenic rule, WIFA has awarded 10 drinking water systems with over \$13.7 million in low-interest loan funds. WIFA also awarded 18 drinking water systems with over \$390,000 in grant funds.

WIFA has been actively involved in initiatives to ease and assist in compliance for water systems. WIFA streamlined its loan review process allowing expeditious review of arsenic-related projects.

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#### ABOUT THE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AUTHORITY OF ARIZONA

The Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona maintains and improves water quality in Arizona by providing communities and private water systems with access to low-interest financial assistance and technical assistance needed for basic water infrastructure. WIFA's funds are capitalized by contributions from the US Congress and the state of Arizona. As a leader in water infrastructure finance, WIFA has become a premier financial institution both in Arizona and nationally. Visit WIFA's Web site at [www.azwifa.gov](http://www.azwifa.gov).